VCA RIVERFEST PARK | Buffalo, NY



Park Planning & Design

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Client:

Valley Community Association

Client Contact:

Peg Overdorf (716) 823-4707

Completion Date:

2010

Estimate:

\$2,852,925.50 Base Bid \$1,262,500 Alt. 1 \$104,100 Alt. 2 \$115,500 Alt. 3

Key Personnel:

Gregory Hewitt, PE Steven Denzler, PE Christopher Gardner, PE



DiDonato was responsible for the planning and design of a 2.5-acre park located on the Buffalo River. The project involves the construction of a multi-purpose park on the existing vacant lot. The construction of the Buffalo River Fest Park on the City's waterfront facility provides public access opportunities to the region's residents and visitors.

The design objective was to create a link between the Buffalo Harbor waterways and the emerging Cobblestone District. The design encourages area boaters to use this park as a destination point and allow them to explore the City's water and land-based attractions.

In order to achieve this goal, the design of the park relies heavily on the site's 550-foot riverfront. Phase 1 of the project included the design and construction of a wharf and transient docks to accommodate all types of watercraft, from canoes to cabin cruisers. Phase 1 also includes a bandshell/stage area with lawn area seating, a pergola on the wharf, and pathways connecting to existing greenway routes in the neighborhood. Phase 2 (not yet constructed) will include a public activity center to house a variety of activities and attractions. A pavilion will be constructed to house restroom and snack bar facilities, and also will host small and medium size music events featuring local artists. Historical interpretive displays highlighting the Buffalo River's rich industrial heritage will be a featured function of the pavilion. Additional picnic shelters also will be constructed.

With the use of natural land-form design, tree planting and sodding, the intended bucolic setting is ideal for a small family picnic or a local church's lawn fete. With careful design and site planning, the Buffalo River Fest Park, LLC believes that this park will have a large positive impact on the Buffalo waterfront and will be enjoyed for many years by residents and visitors.

